

**2304 41st Avenue E
Seattle, WA 98112-2732**

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing this letter to express my opinion on the settlement reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. For three years I have followed the case against Microsoft with avid interest. I have become increasingly annoyed with the length of the litigation process. The terms of the federal settlement are extremely fair and I believe that it should be enacted without hesitation. Any continued mediation in this case would be poor judgment by the Justice Department.

Further, the terms of the settlement include many concessions on behalf of Microsoft. The terms of the agreement call for the disclosure of protocols and internal interface designs of the Windows system. This will result in the ability for competing developers to produce software that may be more compatible with the Windows system. In addition to this Microsoft has allowed for the formation of a technical review board that is composed of outside members. This panel will ensure Microsoft's compliance with the terms of the settlement.

It becomes increasingly clear that the enactment of this settlement is important. Resolution in this case will benefit the technology industries and the economy. Please enact the settlement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt Buecheler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kurt" and last name "Buecheler" clearly distinguishable.

Kurt Buecheler